1: Burrows--37 (1947-48) Woleaians
116, 167, 262 Ifalik

"During the war many Woleai people came to Ifalik because the Japanese were using Woleai for an airfield, which not only crowded the natives but subjected them to American bombing. Our interpreter put the number who came to Ifalik at 375. Even if we discount liberally--for his figures could never be trusted--it seems likely that the population of Ifalik was at least doubled then, rather suddenly. Tom assured us that there was plenty of taro for all, and plenty left over; and on information of that kind he was generally dependable."

2: Damm et al. --78 [3] (1909) 1938 Woleaians
116, 167, 175 Ifaluk

Ifaluk played a special role in the history of the Caroline archipelago, partly because of its wars against Oleai, Lamutrik and Elato, and then also because it colonized anew the islands, which it had depopulated, as well as Sorol and Faraulip. The following facts illustrate the dependency on Yap. At the time of the Hamburg South Sea Expedition, two men from Ifaluk, the only ocean captains left, had taken their boats, and 85 men and 6 women had gone with the steamer to Yap and Ngulu. Nobody knew when they would come back, because the king of Gatšapar kept these tribute payers on Yap for a long time; they had to work for him. So the suzerainty of Yap was still very powerful.

2; Damm et al. --141 (1909) 1938 Woleaians
116, 173, 167 Aurupik

The Hamburg South Sea Expedition obtained the following list of chiefs: Baluelap was the successor of Ligowûw, the husband of the first mother, then Solán, Ellulué, Módj, Ärüdäl(Eridal); but the natives were unable to give any more exact information about them. However the son of Ärüdäl, Jadóa (Jädowuá) is remembered as a chief, because it was during his reign that a typhoon devastated the island. It did so much damage that the survivors went to Oleai to escape a famine, and they spent ten months there. When the Aurepik islanders returned home under Manelué, Jadóa remained in Oleai, where he died. His son Fagíl became chief of the people who went back home. He was succeeded by his son, Medák, who was still ruling in 1909.

3: Thilenius and Hellwig--259 (1909-10) 1927 Woleaians
116, 167, 177, 755 Faraulep

The entire group had been resettled by persons from Ifaluk after the original inhabitants had annihilated each other in lasting feuds. In discussing this question the chief advanced the opinion that many a sickness had been imported through contact with European vessels, and he also made the presence of our ship responsible for the prevailing headcold and coughing epidemics. In earlier times there had been many old people; at present, however, this was not the case anymore, and people died off while they were still rather young. This is an old complaint, and not altogether without justification. ...Hambruch had gained the impression that a high percentage of the population had been infected with syphilis. After a few days the chief himself caught a headcold, and the sorcerer spoke his magic formula, passed a bunch of leaves gently over the sick man and sang at the same time his monotonous exorcising chant.

3: Thilenius and Hellwig--260 (1909-10) 1927 Woleaians
116, 161, 167, 342, 731 Ifalik

Feladjik has 109 inhabitants, the second island, FalElâp, 99, while Elî, the third island of the atoll, was uninhabited. In 1904 the population figure was still as high as 281. During the last typhoon (March 27, 28th, 1907) 35 persons perished.... The atoll was settled from Yap... Only Wólea, Lámutrik... and Faraûlip had been settled from Ifaluk .... Fraûlip had been depopulated by civil wars, Faladjik and Felâlâp are inhabited only to the north; the farmsteads are dispersed at intervals along the coast. House construction is little developed.

4: Krämer--1
116, 161, 167, 731

(1909) 1937

Woleaians
Lamotrek

[MR: From the Südsee-Handbuch, p. 34]: Natives: Lámutrik has a population of no more than 200, who may be looked upon as new arrivals. Sixty years ago the tidal wave of a typhoon had in part destroyed the population and in part had forced it to emigrate to Truk, Jap, and Saipan; later on some of them returned to their home islands.

4: Krämer--32 (1909) 1937 Woleaians
116, 177, 167 Elato

At the time of Ilematip the first whites came to Elato.

In the old times chief Teiar came from Truk with his people subjected Elato and ruled over the island. When he was in office the natives of Ifaluk came over and killed all the inhabitants of Elato. Elato was settled anew by the people of Ifaluk. Möz was the chief. At that time all the natives of Nämeliaur were also slain and those of Lamütsik were greatly decimated. Elato is a colony of Ifaluk.

9: Senfft--13 (1903) 1904 Woleaians
116, 167, 731 Lamotrek

This group of islands had formerly had a denser population; a typhoon together with a flood had destroyed almost everything about 60 years ago. A few men who had gone on the six remaining canoes to the Oleai Group at a distance of 150 nautical miles had brought a number of vessels on which the whole population emigrated to the Marianas, Truk, Yap, and other islands. Only after many years part of the population returned.

14: Born et al--576
116, 167, 731

(1907) 1907

Woleaians
Ifalik

I [MR: district official Fritz] intend to move as many as possible of the population [MR: affected by typhoon of March 1907] to the Palau and Marianas Islands, and in fact, on the present trip of the "Germania," 200 to 300 from Ifaluk (in all over 400 inhabitants, 25 typhoon victims) to Palau, on the trip back 200 to 300 from Oleai (formerly a total of 1,000 inhabitants) to Saipan. The "Seestern" expected in July is then to visit the other islands in the east, which presumably were also struck by the typhoon, and bring as many people as possible to the Marianas.

22: German Government--184
116, 167, 731

(1909-10) 1911

Woleaians
Woleai

[AN: In the Western Carolines, West Central Carolines, and Marianas] . . . the peace was not disturbed in the year covered by the report [ER: 1909-10]; relations with the natives remained untroubled.

The typhoons of the last years [AN: 1905 and 1907] had necessitated resettlement of supernumerary persons from the most devastated islands of the Oleai and Mortlock groups [UMR: Nomoi], and from Pingelap and the atolls south of Palau, on the thinly populated islands of Ponape, Palau, and the Marianas; on the latter there was more than sufficient food available for them, and they were to be settled there permanently as an economically valuable addition. Disturbances on Ponape and the danger that they might become enslaved, about the end of 1908 required removal of the Mortlock natives to Saipan. Unfortunately, this transplantation did not prove successful. In contrast to the people of Oleai who are closely related to the Saipan Carolinians, the people of Mortlock could not feel at home on Saipan. In April 1910, together with their companions in misfortune on Truk, they were sent back to their own islands, which in the meantime had recovered from the damage wrought by the typhoon. Earlier the inhabitants of the southern atolls, that had been destroyed in 1905, had been resettled on Saipan; they, too, returned to Sonserol. 129 of them remain on Palau; on the Marianas there are 200 people from Oleai, 60 from Pingelap, and 64 from Samoa, who, in 1909, had to be removed from their home lands for political reasons.

41: Bates & Abbott N-5 (1953) 1958
OR21 Woleai OR21
Ifaluk

tural changes brought by the West—changes in clothing, in housing, in diet, in customs—have tended to increase the disease problem rather than to alleviate it. But that is a pet peeve of mine.

The population history of Ifaluk itself is not clear. Counts by anthropologists during the period of German control showed populations of 281 in 1903 and 208 in 1909, with an estimate of 300 for 1914. The drop between the first two counts may be a result of the typhoon of 1907—not only direct mortality, but also emigration to other islands as a consequence of food shortage.

The older Ifalukians thought that more people had lived on the island formerly; and from their stories I got to thinking that the population might at some time have reached as much as 500. This was based on accounts of times when even coconuts were carefully shared and nothing was wasted. Abandoned household sites in the village areas might be evidence of some population decline and there were stories of an epidemic, soon after the Japanese appeared, when as many as a dozen people died in a day. This, clearly, was smallpox; and the Japanese started vaccination, which has been maintained by the American authorities.

The island, in 1953, was not overpopulated. The land surface of the atoll was about a half a square mile, so the population of 260 people would represent a density of about 520 persons per square mile: a rather dense population, but we must remember that the people of Ifaluk had also the resources of their lagoon and of the surrounding seas. Ifaluk seemed to me to represent an economy of abundance, and this probably in part explains the idyllic living conditions that prevailed. With more people, with the same resources and the same cultural equipment, life might have been more difficult and unpleasant.

The Ifalukians certainly seemed not only happy, but healthy. It is difficult to make exact comparisons between the Ifalukians and other people because of our uncertainty about precise ages, so that one is likely to be averaging fifteen-year-olds with thirty-year-olds. In general, however, the men seemed to be somewhat smaller and lighter than the American average. The tallest man of the island, Sepemal, was a half inch under six feet. The heaviest (Wolpaitig, the number